



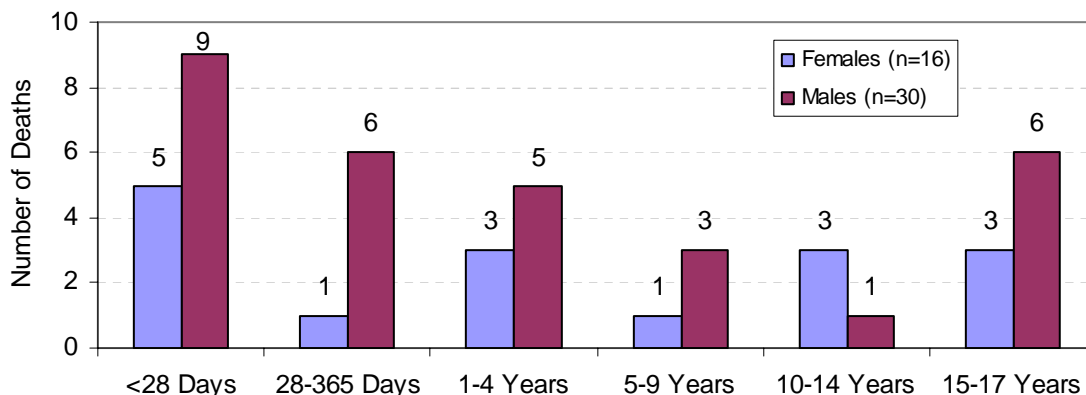
## 2006 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR COCHISE, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

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### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, or Santa Cruz Counties. During 2006, there were 46 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in these counties. Males accounted for 65 percent of deaths (n=30), and females accounted for 35 percent (n=16). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by gender and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Gender and Age Group, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=46)**

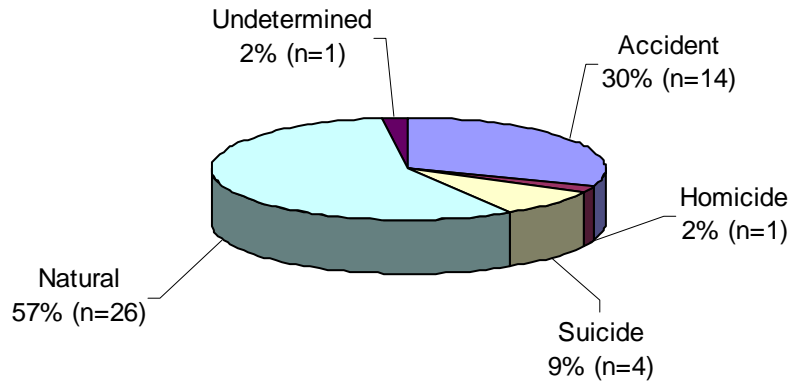


Deaths were over-represented among Non-Hispanic White children in these counties. Non-Hispanic White children comprised 24 percent of the population but 33 percent of the fatalities (n=12). Hispanic children comprised 67 percent of the population but 50 percent of the fatalities (n=18). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (17 percent, n=6).

## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Fifty-seven percent of deaths were classified as natural (n=26); 30 percent were due to accidents (n=14); nine percent were due to suicides (n=4); two percent were due to homicides (n=1); and two percent were of undetermined manner (n=1). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner,  
Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz  
Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=46)**



There were 26 child deaths classified as natural, including 14 from medical causes, nine from prematurity, and three from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Nine children died in motor vehicle crashes, and four children died from firearm-related injuries. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Accident</b>	<b>Homicide</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>Total</b>
Medical*				14		<b>14</b>
Prematurity				9		<b>9</b>
Motor vehicle crash	9					<b>9</b>
Firearm	1		3			<b>4</b>
SIDS				3		<b>3</b>
Exposure	2					<b>2</b>
Suffocation/strangulation	1					<b>1</b>
Undetermined					1	<b>1</b>
Poisoning		1				<b>1</b>
Drowning	1					<b>1</b>
Hanging			1			<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>

\*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the nine motor vehicle crash deaths, eight children were passengers and one child was a pedestrian. Of the eight vehicle passengers who died in crashes, six were in back seats and one was in a front seat. For one child, the location in the vehicle was unknown.

## PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caretaker or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 48 percent of the deaths among Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=22).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor in six child deaths (13 percent), and access to firearms was a contributing factor in four deaths (nine percent). Lack of supervision contributed to three deaths (six percent), and lack of vehicle restraints contributed to three deaths (six percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties.

<b>Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2006</b>		
<b>Factor*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Drugs/alcohol	6	13%
Access to firearm	4	9%
Lack of supervision	3	6%
Lack of vehicle restraint	3	6%
<b>*More than one factor may have been identified for each death</b>		

## **CHILD FATALITIES IN COCHISE, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES**

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 11 Arizona counties. During 2006, 46 children who were residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, or Santa Cruz Counties died, and 1,044 children died who were residents of the other 11 counties. Nearly half of the deaths of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (48 percent, n=22), and 37 percent of child deaths in the remaining counties were determined to have been preventable (n=389).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (30 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (40 percent). Prematurity accounted for 20 percent of deaths in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties and 26 percent of deaths for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 20 percent of deaths in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties but 12 percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

<b>Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2006</b>			
<b>Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=46)</b>		<b>Arizona, Excluding Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=1,044)</b>	
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>
Medical	30%	Medical	40%
Prematurity	20%	Prematurity	26%
Motor vehicle crash	20%	Motor vehicle crash	12%

Natural deaths accounted for the largest percentage of child deaths in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (57 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (66 percent). Accidents accounted for 30 percent of child deaths in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, but 21 percent in the remaining counties. There was a larger percentage of suicides in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (nine percent), compared to the rest of the state (four percent). Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

<b>Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2006</b>			
<b>Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=46)</b>		<b>Arizona, excluding Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=1,044)</b>	
<b>Manner</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>	<b>Manner</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>
Natural	57%	Natural	66%
Accident	30%	Accident	21%
Suicide	9%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	2%	Suicide	4%
Undetermined	2%	Undetermined	3%